

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action it was noted that certain objectionable issues existed with relation to the form of the original claims, and all but two of such claims were rejected in view of various ones of the cited Suzuki Nabetani, Renner and Ikari patents. In response, Applicants have cancelled all of original Claims 1-18 and have submitted new Claims 19-41 which are believed to be presented in good form and to be patentable over the references.

Specifically, in new independent Claim 19 a mechanism is set forth which is capable of selecting either of a card or an adapter for being ejected. A comparison between the claimed requirements of new Claim 19 and the cited references first reveals that the Suzuki patent discloses a mechanism for ejecting from or mounting to a carriage, and a mechanism for moving the carriage/adapter. However, the Suzuki patent does not disclose a second driving force transmission means as required in Applicants' Claim 19 for receiving power from driving means and applying force to the adapter in the ejecting direction of said inserting portion. Accordingly, the Suzuki patent merely discloses a mechanism for ejecting/mounting a card, however, it does not disclose the mechanism for ejecting/inserting the adapter/carriage from the inserting portion, as required in Claim 19. Furthermore, as also distinguished for Applicants' Claim 19, the Suzuki patent does not disclose that the control means controls the first driving force transmission means so that the adapter is restrained from moving to the ejecting direction of the inserting portion, when ejecting the card from the inserting portion.

With respect to the Nabetani patent, it is noted that that reference discloses a mechanism for manually fixing/mounting media and a mechanism for manually fixing/mounting an adapter. However, the Nabetani patent does not disclose a driving means for providing power, as required in Claim 19. That is, the Nabetani patent does not

disclose Applicants' claimed first driving force transmission means for receiving power from the driving means and applying force to the adapter, or the second driving force transmission means for receiving power from the driving means and applying force to the adapter in the ejecting direction of the inserting portion. Furthermore, the Nabetani patent does not disclose that the control means controls the first driving force transmission means so that when ejecting the card from the inserting portion.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited Renner patent also fails as a rejecting reference. Particularly, that reference discloses the automatic ejection of a card (col.13, line14, col. 13, lines 24-30), but it does not disclose the requirement of Applicants' Claim 19 for a first driving force transmission means for receiving power from the driving means and applying force to the adapter, and the second driving force transmission means for receiving power from the driving means and applying force to the adapter in the ejecting direction of the inserting portion. Accordingly, while Claim 19 may be characterized as having a specific mechanism for ejecting/mounting a card/adapter, but the cited Renner patent does not suggest such an arrangement. Furthermore, that reference does not disclose that the control means controls the first driving force transmission means so that the adapter is restrained from moving to the ejecting direction of the inserting portion, when ejecting the card from the inserting portion, as also required in Claim 19.

Referring now to the cited Ikari patent it is noted that it discloses a mechanism for ejecting/mounting media mounted in an adapter by rotating a lever. In this regard, however, that reference does not disclose Applicants' claimed first driving force transmission means for receiving power from the driving means and applying force to the adapter, and the second driving force transmission means for receiving power from the driving means and applying force to the adapter in the ejecting direction of the inserting portion, as required in Claim 19. Further with the regard to the cited Ikari patent it is noted

the Examiner states that "Ikari et al teaches a spring 26 serves as energizing means for applying energizing force in a direction opposite to the ejecting direction with respect to the storage medium adapter 21 when the storage medium 20 is selectively ejected by the ejecting means from the storage medium adapter mounted at the mounting means." In response, Applicants point out, however, that the Ikari reference merely discloses a mechanism in which a spring biases a lever to the direction opposite in the ejecting direction so as to move back the lever (col.4, lines 61-63). However, it is not disclosed to bias the adapter to the ejecting direction. Accordingly, Ikari does not disclose that the control means controls the first driving force transmission means so that the adapter is restrained from moving to the ejecting direction of the inserting portion, when ejecting the card from the inserting portion, as required in Claim 19.

For these various reasons it is respectfully submitted that none of the above-referenced patents disclose or suggest that the control means controls the first driving force transmission means so that the adapter is restrained from moving in the ejecting direction of the inserting portion, when ejecting the card from the inserting portion. Moreover, none of these references disclose the second driving force transmission means for receiving power from the driving means and applying force to the adapter in the ejecting direction of the inserting portion. Accordingly, the invention of Claim 19 is believed to be patentable along with Claims 20-35 that depend therefrom. Similarly, independent Claims 36-38 are patentable for these same reasons.

Independent Claim 39 requires automatic mounting means for receiving power to mount an adapter, and to mount a card at the adapter. Referring, however, to the cited Suzuki patent, that reference discloses a mechanism for ejecting from or mounting to a carriage, and a mechanism for moving the carriage/adapter, but does not disclose automatic mounting means for receiving power from said driving means, so that when a

card is inserted, the automatic mounting means automatically mounts the card at an adapter, and, in the case where said adapter is inserted in said inserting portion, the automatic mounting means automatically mounts the adapter in the mechanism. Thus, Applicants submit that the cited Suzuki patent merely discloses a mechanism for mounting a card only, but does not disclose a mechanism for selectively mounting an adapter/carriage.

The Nabetani patent, on the other hand, discloses a mechanism for manually fixing/mounting media and a mechanism for manually fixing/mounting an adapter. Nabetani, however, does not disclose the claimed automatic mounting means for receiving power from the driving means, wherein, in the case where the card is inserted the automatic mounting means automatically mounts the card at the adapter, and, in the case where said adapter is inserted automatic mounting means automatically mounts the adapter in the mechanism, as recited in Claim 39. Again, in the mechanism of Applicants' Claim 39 power is recieved from the driving means, so that when the card is inserted it is mounted at the adapter, and when the adapter is inserted the adapter is mounted. The Nabetani reference does not disclose receiving power from the driving means, nor the selective mounting of either the card or adapter.

Further with regard to Claim 39, Applicants note that the cited Renner patent discloses the automatic ejection of a card (col.13, line14, col. 13, lines 24-30), but does not disclose driving means for providing power and the automatic mounting means for receiving power to automatically mount a card at an adapter, and, in the case where the adapter is inserted, to automatically mount the adapter in the mechanism, as required in Claim 39. Thus, Claim 39 requires power from the driving means, to mount the card at the adapter, and when the adapter is inserted in the inserting portion, to mount the adapter.

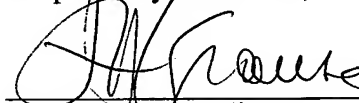
The Renner patent does not disclose power from the driving means and to mount selectively either the card or adapter.

Finally, referring to the cited Ikari patent, that reference discloses a mechanism for ejecting/mounting media mounted in an adapter by rotating a lever, but it does not disclose driving means for providing power, or automatic mounting means for receiving power from said driving means, so that the mounting means automatically mounts the card at the adapter, and, in the case where said adapter is inserted automatically mounts the adapter in the mechanism, as referred in Claim 39. Accordingly, the cited Renner patent does not disclose receiving power from the driving means to mount selectively either the card or adapter.

In summary, Applicants' respectfully submit that all of new Claims 19-41 are allowable, and the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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